GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:602
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
PILFERAGE OF SUBSIDISED FOODGRAINS
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the subsidised foodgrains meant for distribution among the poor is being pilfered from the Government godowns and stores;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during each of the last three years alongwith the quantum of foodgrains involved therein;

(c) the action taken against those held guilty; and

(d) the steps being taken to check such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.602 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 09.05.2005 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a) & (b): In respect of foodgrains kept in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns, the number of cases of pilferage of foodgrains detected by the FCI and the quantity involved, during the last three years is as under:

Year	Number of cases	Quantity involved (MTs)
2001-2002	88	235.5
2002-2003	57	169.7
2003-2004	63	156.5

In addition, occasional complaints regarding pilferage/diversion of foodgrains from State Governments` godowns are received both by the Central and State Governments. Immediate follow up action on these is taken by the concerned State Government. However, a consolidated list of all such cases is not centrally maintained.

(c): The year-wise number of cases in which disciplinary action, including money recoveries, has been completed by the FCI against officials found guilty of pilferage/ misappropriation of foodgrains in the last three years, is as under:

Year	Number of cases
2002	98
2003	153
2004	95

In respect of complaints pertaining to State Government godowns, disciplinary/criminal action has been taken by the concerned State Government against the delinquent officials, including money recoveries of the value of foodgrains misappropriated.

(d): To check pilferage and diversion of foodgrains from the FCI godowns the steps taken include:

(i) Speedy investigation of vigilance cases and punishing the guilty officials,including recovery of losses.

(ii) Regular Physical Verification of stocks.

(iii) Conducting of regular and surprise checking of depots, rail head transshipment and destination/dispatch centers.

(iv) Adequate security arrangements, including deployment of CISF/ Home Guards/State Armed Police.

(v) Identification of vulnerable points, to plug leakages/pilferages

(vi) Introduction of computerized stock accounting information system, and

(vii) Proper weighment and accounting system at the time of receipt and issue.

As regards the State Governments, they have been advised to strengthen their monitoring and supervision machinery to prevent cases of pilferage and diversion of foodgrains from their godowns, including strict enforcement of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001.